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SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
RURAL DISTRICT.

in the  
Administrative County of Cambridge

ANNUAL REPORT

of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1942

To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1942 on the Health, Sanitary Conditions, and Vital Statistics of the South Cambridgeshire Rural District. The Report is an abbreviated one and there are no matters of immediate urgency towards which it is necessary to draw attention. The general health of the population has continued to be good.

Arthur Morgan,  
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of District	- 112,315
Number of parishes	- 52
Rateable Value	- £75,621.
Sum represented by a penny rate	- £308.

Social Conditions - The whole area is rural in character. There is only one parish presenting any industrial features.

VITAL STATISTICS.

## Live Births -

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	355	182	173
Illegitimate	24	15	9
	379	197	182

Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population - 12.0  
Birth Rate per 1000 population (England and Wales) - 15.8

## Stillbirths -

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	10	8	2
Illegitimate	3	2	1

Rate per 1000 total (live and stillbirths) - 33.1

## Deaths -

	Total.	Male.	Female.
	348	165	183

Death Rate per 1000 estimated population - 15.0  
Death Rate per 1000 population (England and Wales) - 11.6

## Deaths from puerperal causes -

- a. Puerperal sepsis - Nil.
- b. Other puerperal causes - 1.

Rate per 1000 total (live and stillbirths) - 2.5.

## Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age -

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	11	4	7
Illegitimate	2	1	1
Totals.	13	5	8

## Death rate of infants under 1 year of age -

All infants per 1000 live births - 34.3  
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births - 30.9  
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births - 83.3

Deaths from cancer (all ages)	- 54
Deaths from measles (all ages)	- Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	- Nil
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	- 4
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	- Nil

## Birth and Death Rates for the last four years -

	1938	1939	1940	1941
Birth Rates	12.0	14.0	12.5	12.6
Death Rates	14.1	14.0	15.5	13.7

Note:- All the death rates are uncorrected for age and sex distribution.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There are no alterations of particular importance to record in any of these services.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

- (A) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.
- (B) Two whole time Sanitary Inspectors. Mr. A.C. Dyson, Cert. S.I.E.B. is the Senior Inspector.

Laboratory facilities:-

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, make all the bacteriological examinations that may be needed in cases of infectious diseases, etc.

Samples of Milk are dealt with by the Agricultural Department, University of Cambridge.

Hospitals:-

There are no General Hospitals situated within the area.

Isolation Hospitals:-

None within the area. Cases of infectious disease are treated at the Cambridge Borough Isolation Hospital at a charge of £2.12.6. weekly plus the cost of removal by ambulance.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply -

Thirty-seven parishes have a piped supply of water, the remaining fifteen still depend upon water from bored and shallow wells. Samples are taken monthly from the piped sources of supply and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination, altogether 65 samples were examined and found to be chemically and bacteriologically pure. In the western Area scheme, however, a number of complaints have been received about the turbidity of the water. This is due to a precipitate of iron oxycarbonate. The Council have considered the possibility of removing the iron by aeration and filtration when conditions permit. Thirteen samples of water were also taken from private supplies, three were found to be fit for drinking purposes, five unfit, five seit but needing to be kept under observation.

Rivers and streams -

A certain amount of pollution does take place particularly at Sawston and to some extent at Linton. This problem is somewhat bound up with the question of water supplies. Both Sawston and Linton have piped supplies and at Sawston there is a partial and entirely unsatisfactory system of sewerage. This system is called upon to deal with trade effluent, and the combination of the two results in pollution of the river. Having regard to the number of parishes with piped supplies of water the question of sewerage will undoubtedly, present a difficult problem to be solved in the future.

Public Cleansing -

Periodical collections of refuse are made in the Parishes of Abington Pigotts, Bassingbourn, Kneesworth, Meldreth, Melbourn, Litlington, Thriplow, Hinxton, Ickleton, Linton, Great Chishill, Sawston, Horseheath, Castle Camps, Shudy Camps, Gamlingay, East Hatley, Hatley St. George and Whittlesford.

A weekly collection of night soil is made at Sawston from 165 houses.

Shops and Offices.

No Action taken.

Camping Sites.

During the year licences were granted in respect of 4 sites.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Disinfestation was carried out at 4 houses by spraying with Zaldecide and fumigating with Sulphur. No re-infestation occurred.

Schools.

A survey has been made of all schools in the area and the details recorded. Improvements have been made to the Sanitary Accommodation at 7 schools, to the drains at 2, and to the water supply of 3.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Complaints	124
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Housing:-	
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General inspections	110
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Under Housing Consolidated Regulations	25
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Reinspections	692
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Overcrowding	18
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Infectious Diseases:-

Cases investigated	45
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Number of rooms disinfected	87
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Water Supply:-

Inspections	233
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Samples of water taken	126
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Chlorination Tests made	71
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Milk and Dairies Order:-

Inspections of cowsheds and dairies	531
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Number of samples taken	20
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Number of Sediment Tests made	18
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Public Health (Meat) Regulations	420
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Ditches, drains and cesspools	162
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Food premises, bakehouses etc.	57
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Factories Act	90
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Closet Accommodation	201
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Schools	75
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Tents, vans and sheds	10
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Scavenging and Cleansing	220
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Knackers Yards	1
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Miscellaneous Inspections	38
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Government Evacuations	55
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A.R.P. Services	203
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Salvage	57
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<u>3689</u>
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Number of statutory notices served	25
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Number of nuisances abated and defects etc., removed	
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117
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Repairs done to 66 houses as result of informal action.	
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" " " 8 " " " " formal action.	
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HOUSING.

Repairs of an urgent and essential character are dealt with. There are difficulties, however, in obtaining labour and material. Some houses are occupied which, because of their state of disrepair, would not be tenanted at all under ordinary circumstances. In the future, no doubt, it will be possible to do a good deal by reconstruction and repairing, but a fairly extensive post war building programme will be needed if a good standard of housing is to be maintained.

From time to time a certain amount of unavoidable overcrowding has taken place and quite a large proportion of the cottages, not at the moment actually overcrowded from an official standpoint, represent border line cases for which some provision may have to be made when schemes are being considered.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:-	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	110
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	600
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	25
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	90
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	135
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	66
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-	
(A) Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	14
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	8
(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	Nil.
(C) Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders:-	
(a) By Owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
(D) Proceeding under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined	Nil.
4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.	
Number of new cases of overcrowding	5
Number of cases abated	1

Slum Clearance.

Under the Defence Regulation 1939 and section 155 of the Housing Act, 1936, licences were granted for a period of 6 months, for the temporary occupation of 6 houses in respect of which Demolition orders had been made.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

## (a) Milk Supply:-

No. of Wholesale Producers	72
No. of Producer Retailers	65
No. of Producer Retailers and Wholesale.	9
No. of Retail Purveyors	14

During the year 531 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies, and it was found necessary to serve a number of informal notices relating to such matters as want of cleanliness, structural defects etc.

18 sediment tests were made at the cowsheds when milking was in progress and in some cases it was found necessary to request the milkers to exercise greater precaution in their methods.

were  
20 samples of milk/taken, only 9 of which satisfies the prescribed test. Necessary action was taken in cases where the samples proved unsatisfactory.

## (b) Meat and Other Foods:-

Number of visits to slaughterhouses, meat stores and shops 420

None of the slaughter houses are in regular use, the meat being distributed from outside the area. A certain amount of meat, but no large quantity, was found unfit for human consumption. Most of the unsound foods consisted of tinned goods damaged in transit. When possible the condemned materials were used for animal feeding, etc., under the supervision of the food salvage officer.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The majority of the notifications were of measles and whooping cough. These diseases became notifiable in October, 1939. Altogether 151 notifications of infectious disease were received during the year. They were the following:-

Whooping cough 92. Measles 25. Pneumonia 6. Scarlet fever 17. Erysipelas 4. Diphtheria 2. Puerperal pyrexia 3. Ophthalmia neonatorum 1. Cerebro spinal fever 1. Eleven cases of scarlet fever were sent to hospital as were both cases of diphtheria. One of the diphtherias had been immunised. There were no deaths from Measles, whooping cough, Scarlet fever or diphtheria.

Notifications of some of the principal infectious diseases during the last four years as compared with the present year:-

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942.
Scarlet fever	14	26	12	5	17
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	2
Measles	-	-	134	681	25
Whooping Cough	-	14	57	73	92
Pneumonia	8	18	13	20	6

No deaths occurred from Scarlet fever in any of these years, but there was one from measles, one from whooping cough and one from diphtheria in 1940.

Diphtheria Immunisation -

Diphtheria has never been prevalent in the area. Only thirteen cases were notified during the period 1934 to 1942 inclusive, the South Cambridgeshire Rural District was only formed in 1934 so that accurate figures prior to that year are not available.

Immunisation was commenced towards the end of 1939 and is carried out by Medical Practitioners in the area.

The County Council deals with Maternity and Child Welfare and is the Education Authority. The District Councils, on the other hand, are concerned with infectious diseases and their prevention. The question of diphtheria immunisation is, therefore, one which interests both parties. The arrangement arrived at was for immunisation sessions to be held at Infant Welfare Centres and Schools throughout the area. The necessary material is provided free of charge by the District Council who also pay the Practitioners fees except in the case of Infant Welfare Centres. In the initial stages the necessary material had to be purchased, now it is obtained free of charge from the Emergency Public Health Laboratory. Two injections of A.P.T. are given at an appropriate interval, but no Schick testing has been done. By June 1943 it was estimated that approximately 58% of children under school age and 80% of children of school age had been fully protected. In 1942 the arrangements were extended and parents wishing to have their children protected, whether they are of school age or under, can have them immunised privately by any Medical Practitioner of their own choice. The District Council pay a fee of 7/6 for the two injections. This arrangement is working well. Diphtheria Antitoxin:- Antitoxin is always supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases:-

Information is somewhat limited regarding those diseases but there does not appear to have any undue incidence. Scabies has not been particularly prevalent.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1		1	1	1				
5			2	2			1	
15		1					1	
25		4			1	3		1
35	1	1			1	2		
45	1		1		1			1
55	1						1	
65 and over					1			
Totals	3	7	4	3	4	7	2	1

There were two non-notified deaths. No action has been required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.